[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES ON HIS VISIT TO JAPAN.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister for Industries will now make a statement under Rule 82 of the Assembly Rules.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members are aware that the Government have ventured to take up an ambitious planning pattern for the Fourth Five-Year Plan commencing 1966–67. From the draft outline of the Fourth Five-Year Plan placed before the House in July last, honourable Members would have noticed that the industrial content of the Fourth Plan is envisaged to be of the order of Rs. 600 crores. Although the specific schemes for the industrial programme are yet to be finalised, the State Government have formulated proposals for the setting up of new units in the fields of Electronics, Chemicals, Petro-chemical Machine Tools, etc. We have under consideration the setting up of a Machine Tools Factory, a plant for producing agricultural oriented equipment as also the utilisation of the multi-mineral lead-zinc-copper ore in mamandur in South Arcot District. As Japan has been helping our country as a member of the India Consortium and the range of their manufacture would suit our needs, I have been thinking of visiting their country to acquaint myself with more recent developments in the field of industries there and also to discuss with the representatives of industry and the representatives of the Government there to explore the possibility of securing their assistance for some of the programmes contemplated for implementation during the Fourth Plan in our State.

Honourable Members are no doubt aware of the deep desire of this Government for setting up the Neyveli-Salem Steel Plant for which the Indian Consulting Engineers, commissioned by the Government of India, have drawn up a detailed Project Report. The Japan Consulting Institute who had sent out a Survey Team to our State during August-September 1965 for an 'on the spot study' of the various facilities connected with the steel plant, requested Government to send a team to Japan for discussions on some of the outstanding issues and to help them in the finalisation of their report. I was in Japan for about two weeks and I was accompanied by the Secretary of the Industries Department and the Special Officer for Neyveli-Salem Steel Project. I had very useful discussions with the Japan Consulting Institute and the representatives of leading industrial houses like Yawata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Fuji Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., and Ishikawajima Harima Heavy Industries who form the Consortium for the Neyveli-Salem Steel Plant. Our discussions principally centred round the capacity of the plant, the metallurgical process and the financial arrangements for the setting up of the plant. We had occasion to visit a number of iron and steel works including one at Ariake where the raw materials in use and the Yawata process adopted have great similarity to those proposed for the Salem Steel

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Plant. It emerged that the Japan Consulting Institute would suggest two alternatives relating to the plant capacity, viz., 500,000 tonnes of low alloy and plain carbon steels or 250,000 tonnes exclusively of low alloy and special steels. It was stressed by them that even if it is decided to go in for the lower capacity plant of 250,000 tonnes, the plant would be technically feasible and economically attractive. Their final report embodying the discussions would be submitted in a few days.

Honourable Members are also aware that for sometime past we have been thinking of putting up a Machine Tools Plant to produce precision tools to cater to the expanding needs of the engineering industries in this State. The Japan Machine Tools Trade Association comprising several leading manufacturers of Machine Tools in the country had sent out a Team to our country in May last during which time they also visited our State. Based on a preliminary assessment of the needs in our State they have suggested alternative plans indicating the family of machine tools to be manufactured, the probable capital cost thereof, etc. We visited the machine tool complex at Numazu in Japan and had discussions with the Japan Machine Tool Trade Association. We also accepted their offer to send out a Survey Team to our State in the course of the next few weeks to assess the exact requirements of machine tools in our State and to evolve a production pattern which would complement the items of machine tools already produced in our country.

The Government have already decided to set up an Agro-Industries Corporation in the Fourth Plan for the production of machine tools designed to help the farmers and to modernise the farming equipment and techniques. The idea is to produce agricultural implements like power tillers, small tractors and the like. I had an interesting visit to a factory near Osaka turning out these equipment. I am glad to say that the manufacturers have shown a very keen interest in collaborating with us in setting up a factory to produce farm implements.

During our stay in Japan we also availed of the opportunity to visit a number of industries ranging from iron and steel, petrochemicals, electronics and the like. The representatives of the Government and leading industrial houses in Japan showed a keen sense of interest in the progress we are making and in our efforts to further industrialise the State. Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to place on record our deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Japan, the Japan Consulting Institute and the various industrial houses there for all the courtesies and facilities they so warmly accorded to the Delegation while we were in Japan. Government wish to assure the House that we will diligently pursue all the schemes mentioned above and endeavour within the limit of our resources to implement them as quickly as possible.